

December 1985 ⁷ wavelength.

PO Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

"ONE DOWN AND ONE TO GO"

m.v. Communicator.

What sadly looks like being the final chapter on Laser 558 opened on October 19th when in the early morning the station once again went off the air. Laser duly returned October 28th with Craig Novack not mentioning any specific problem but stating it might not be the last time. The day saw slightly erratic scheduling with Craig Novack, Jay Mack, Chuck Cannon and Geoff Davis the DJs on board. It is possible that some may have temporarily left the ship during the absence from the airwaves.

The Closedown.

On Tuesday November 5th at around 0817 Craig Novak read out the following message, clearly similar to Caroline's own 'number' system "All Yankee Three Are Zero - Uniform Repeat, Uniform November, Repeat, November, Romeo two repeat, Channel 16 listening". He added that the message would be repeated in fifteen minutes time, and the message was heard at regular intervals through the morning. As the day continued long segues of music were noted with fewer announcements, until finally at 1220 transmissions ceased.

The first the general public knew about the crisis facing Laser came at 1120 on November 6th, when Radio Caroline gave the news that Communicator was to head for Port. At 0730 that morning Captain Pat Paternoster put out his second SOS call. An earlier call had brought an offer of help from the new Government Survey vessel, Gardline Tracker, which was refused. This time however the offer was accepted. During the previous night storms had cut out Laser's electrical system and Paternoster had taken the decision in the interest of safety for himself and the other ten crew and DJs on board. The survey vessel then assisted the Communicator to raise her anchor, and under her own power 'All Europe Radio' headed for the British mainland and the Essex port of Harwich.

In Port.

The voyage to Harbour took several hours, finally however the two ships arrived, initially stopping in the River Stour, where the Police launch Alert III anchored alongside,

and uniformed Police Officers boarded the Communicator. Laser had maintained from the beginning that the operation was entirely American, but in recent months it had become obvious from visits to the ship and an article in The Mail on Sunday that some members of the crew were British. When Police questioned those on board they found 7 Americans and 4 Britains, including the Captain, who came from Ipswich. On the Wednesday evening many people were still optimistic of getting the Communicator back out to sea, and broadcasting once more. John Catlett, head of the renamed 'Overseas Media Inc.' boarded the ship with solicitors and the Captain of another ship to talk to his crew.

On the coast near to the Communicator's new anchorage people gathered to see the ship, they included DJ Charlie Wolf. Meanwhile the ITI were congratulated themselves, the reaction from a Spokesman. "On e Down and one to go".

Claims and Counterclaims.

With the communicator in port, and not likely to go anywhere as the Department of Transport had declared her Unseaworthy. Claims began to be made on her and the possibility of Laser returning to the air had vanished. Gardline Limited of Great Yarmouth were the first to put in a claim - £5,000 for unpaid debts relating to the original sale of the Communicator under her original name of Gardline Seeker. Mr George Darling of Gardline said that they sold the ship to an American Company, but were not paid for her delivery to the United States.

Paul Alexander Rusling, late of the Punch Tavern in Whitstable, Writer and Broadcasting consultant took out a writ for £7,012 and to make sure that he got the money, for the installation of transmitters aboard the Communicator had the ship arrested and impounded by the Admiralty Marshal. Rusling said that Laser were beginning to make a profit, turning over £26,000 a week from Advertising and the 'Laser Spotlight Songs'. It was not however spent on the right things. "It should have been enough to make sure the

WAVELENGTH

Editorial

The departure of Laser from the North Sea will no doubt be a loss to most of us, even if we did not appreciate the fast music format ourselves there are millions of people who did. I myself heard the news on the way home from work Friday evening, on Radio Caroline and felt as if a close friend had died. Although the government are hailing a victory we must remember that the events which occurred, could have happened at any time over the winter months with or without the Eurosiege. I hope that our chronicle of events is both accurate and informative, it is of course based on news reports and our own research. To me it also showed that you cannot type news items as they come in but only just before you go to press.

I would like to thank all of you for the support that you have shown Wavelength through our first year, and for the acceptance as one of Britain's favourite contemporary Free Radio publications. Not wishing to get too complacent we do always welcome constructive criticisms, and ways we can improve ourselves. Another thank - you has to go to the small band of regular contributors who enable us to cover much more than if I was writing the whole thing myself.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, God Bless you all - Catch you in '86

Adrian

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crew ate properly" He said in the 'East Anglian Daily Times'. Instead of tendering from Spain at a cost of £12,000 a trip, the station was supplied from the British mainland. It was Rusling who devised Laser's format, what he calls 'The Floating Juke-box'. His book 'The Lid off Laser 558' gives the inside story of how the station was founded. The case is now set to be heard in the High Court, we await developments.

Unpaid Debts.

Cardline and Rusling are not the only two parties interested in Laser. A total of nine writs have now been taken out. Captain Paternoster and the remainder of the British crew stayed on board the Communicator hoping to get their wages paid. They stayed on the ship for nine days until finally being assured of receiving their wages. When Wavelength contacted the Captain we were told that they still had not been paid.

The Captain's Story.

Captain Patrick Paternoster had played an important part in Laser's journey to Port. He had previously offered to take the ship into port two weeks before the final broadcast was made, and before the Communicator was finally taken into port Paternoster had spent 48 hours awake, as he was the only one on board who could handle the ship.

Before taking the Communicator to Harwich, he contacted the Ross Revenge, who asked him to keep going longer. He refused, but before he set sail Caroline asked him to unload the broadcasting equipment onto the Ross. This however was refused.

The Future.

It is now unlikely that Laser will be heard on air again. The recent broadcast crew have now returned to the United States although some members do remain in Britain. Liz West is staying in a Rochester Hotel, after her story was sold to the Mail On Sunday. She claims that conditions were appalling on board, and on her last stint she had contracted Scurvy. It seems however that most reports have been somewhat exaggerated, although there was no fresh water left when the boat headed for Harwich. It is ironic that a tender was ready to leave, when it was decided to bring the ship in. Charlie Wolf has spent a week with Radio Orwell (He has named Radio Orville), Tommy Rivers is also remaining here for the time being.

After talk of the communicator being sold to a Mediterranean group an advertisement appeared in Broadcast magazine offering the ship for sale, December 7 issue reads as follows;

"Laser 558, Mv Communicator for sale or lease for legal relaunch. Overseas Media Incorporated, 7 Kensington High Street, London W8." It is Overseas Media Incorporated who

have been Laser's British base over the past few months. The New York office has long been closed and replaced by an answering machine. A Sorry end for a station which made us all think again about European Radio.

CAROLINE

m.v. Ross Revenge.

Since the last edition there have been many developments on board.

From October 13th Radio Caroline began closing down nightly at 0100, reopening at 0600 the next morning. This enabled the engineers to begin work on the 576 transmitter with a view to increase the power to 10 kw before winter and the ever lengthening evenings made listening outside of South East England too difficult, and by October 25th the signal was noticeably improved. During this time the final 2200 show was alternated between Fergie McNeal and Nigel Roberts.

With the Communicator in Harwich harbour further changes were planned. On November 6th Andy Johnston closed the station down for 'essential maintenance' at just after 2200 with 'Sweet Caroline' announcing that Monique would return at 0500 on 963 and Caroline at 0600 on 576. Through the night however non stop music was heard simultaneously on 963 and 558 kHz in parallel. The following morning Nick Richards began the breakfast programme at 0600 on 558. The hourly announcement, with the time check and Caroline bell became simply 'This is Caroline' and with the occasional reference to Laser, Caroline continued. The signal on the much clearer 558 is very good, and with a further increase in power from late November the signal now almost matches that of Laser. The BBC, who have been allocated 558 as the frequency for BBC Radio Essex were apparently expecting the move. Nevertheless the BBC are still planning to commence Radio Essex next autumn. They were allocated 558 several years ago, but it is only now that the BBC want to take up the wavelength due to the corporations tight financial budget. Radio Shropshire had also been allocated 558 at one time, but had to settle for a different outlet. The BBC claim that if they are unable to use 558 they will have to use three different medium wave frequencies instead of two, costing as they have been quick to point out - More

Money. Jamming has been ruled out by the BBC, obviously not wanting to take a leaf out of RTE's book. For their part the Home Office have assured the BBC that there would be no danger to shipping, as the power would only be a mere 0.5kw

On November 30th Andy Johnston announced a further frequency of 6273kHz on the 49 metre band Shortwave. This channel was on the air between 2100 and 2230 and reception reports were requested. It was announced that the channel would be on the air again the following night, nothing however was heard. Andy said that he was worried that the engineers would next work on a robotic DJ to replace him.

The programme format on Caroline has now change once more. The alterations began on November 13th, with the departure of Susan Charles for shoreleave programme times were altered so that all the DJs were presenting four hour shifts commencing at 0600, 1000, 1400, 1800, 2200 and 0200. On November 15th Neil Francis had left the ship to be replaced by the returning Peter Phillips, whilst John Ford, recently returned from the Arabian Sands replaced Nigel Roberts on the 2200 shift. In addition Australian Graham Vager became full time Newsreader. Graham it appears brought a large supply of vegamite with him. From November 16th the Personal Top 5 feature was no longer aired and Jamming 963 had its final broadcast to be replaced the following evening by non-stop country music tracks. From November 18th programmes commenced at 0500 and the schedule now read as follows.

0500 Nick Richards
0900 Peter Phillips
1300 David Andrews
1700 John Ford.
2100 Andy Johnston.

In addition to this Jenny McKenzie, the current Cook on board the Ross can be heard through the night from 0100. This schedule varies at the weekend.

The actual music format is now back to what the station sounded like during the summer of 1984, with an increased number of album tracks during the day and a rock type format during the late evening. Reagee Music is played only occasionally and it would be fair to say that current chart Sounds are 'sprinkled'. Oldies can also be heard, of the type featured in the Top 500 together with the occasional 'rock and roll' and country track. It is planned to separate 963 and 576 further during the evening with more varied programming.

The Religious programmes on 963 continue to increase in number. Johan Maasbach, on Caroline in the 70s, and already back on Monique began a daily programme in English Monday through Saturday at 1800 - 1815 and on Sundays 1800-1830. The programme consists

SHORT WAVE

of a talk and a Gospel Song. Maasbach offers Free a copy of his magazine 'New Life', available on request. Monday through Friday at 1845 you can hear Ernest O'Niell with a programme of Bible Teachings.

We now have an explanation as to why John Lewis left the programming side of Caroline in early September, yet remaining on the ship. After the old Captain of the Ross left the position Peter Phillips took over the role of Skipper, when Peter left for Shore-leave John took over as Captain, obviously leaving little time for on air duties. The new captain on board is Captain Tony who has been heard on air from time to time. John Lewis meanwhile has been in Ireland working on ABC Radio in Waterford, and is naturally expected back on the Ross in the near future.

On November 29 John Ford announced that he was broadcasting from a new studio. This is of course the original studio on the Ross now refurbished.

Captain Tony left his mark on the 'Euro-siege' in late November when he claimed that the Department of Trade officials were becoming 'Bully Boys, foolhardy, and breaking the international law at sea.' The skipper is planning to lodge an official complaint with the DTI. Three officials recently brought their rubber dingy within 30 feet of the hull of the Ross Revenge, which under international law should not be done without permission from the Captain. 'The Three Stooges' (as described by Laser DJ Craig Novak) also made an attempt to board a Free Radio Association boat. Captain Tony says that if the DTI persist with this practice he will order the crew to turn their high pressure hose on the dingy and sink it. Meanwhile the FRA say that if another attempt is made to board one of their boats they will make a citizen's arrest. DTI officials have for their part denied both the charges the East Anglian Daily Times quotes a spokeswoman as saying "We are not going to resort to Bully Boy tactics. The crew aboard the monitoring vessel are only doing their job". The attempted boarding of visiting boats was also denied "What I do know is the crew on board the ship have had bottles thrown at them by people visiting Caroline."

In general the campaign by the DTI remains largely ineffective towards Caroline with enough supplies of both food and fresh water. Tenders are apparently coming from countries not covered by the various European Marine Offences Acts.

Addresses:
Radio Caroline,
New York, 11518, U.S.A.
Johan Maasbach,
Po Box 44, The Hauge, Holland.

Ernest O'Niell,
Campus Radio, Campus Church, Minnesota,
55412, U.S.A.
Caroline's religious broadcasters can also be contacted via;
BCM Box 66, London WC1.

Radio Monique,
Apatado 146, Playa de Aro, Gerona, Spain.

RUMOURS AND OTHER THINGS.

With the sad end to Laser its good to hear of a further offshore project in the pipeline. The as yet unnamed project looks like being a Dutch operation. Paul Rusling claims that the project will be both run and financed from the continent. He says that the ship is currently moored in a port in Southern Holland, with an aerial already fitted. There is a strong possibility that it will be on the air by the end of January. However before we get too much hope there are other stories saying that the ship is actually in a British Port.

Wavelength also has heard of a further two projects in the offing, although these are still very much at the Drawing board stage.

Scotland Yard are taking seriously a plan to launch a Radio station from a North Sea Oil Rig. This American backed scheme would transmit from an American owned rig. Thus avoiding prosecutions under the Marine Offences Act. Supplies would be no problem as they would already be shipped quite legally to the Oil Men.

DIOPTRIC REPLACED BY CARDLINE TRACKER.

With the arrival of winter on the North Sea the DTI boat Dioptric Surveyor was replaced by the larger 443 Ton - Cardline Tracker - sister Ship to the communicator which she escorted into Parkeston Quay on November 6. Obviously somebody in Whitehall thought it would be amusing. The Cardline Tracker arrived October 31st at sunset.

LASER 558 - gone but not forgotten! Your chance to hear this unique station again, plus many other Offshore / LBP available. Send a SAE to 20 Caraway Drive, Swindon, SN2 2RR For a list of archive recordings.

At last, an uplift in Short Wave reception! With the improvement in conditions some operators have come out of their self imposed exile, giving listeners a choice of stations to tune into.

The first change came on October 13th when reception went up and down through the morning, but giving some excellent peaks. The good fortune continued through the remainder of October and November. The beginning of this month did not fair so well with only variable conditions on December 1st.

Addresses for this section are numbered in brackets, and listed at the end.

GREAT BRITAIN.

From Scotland, with operator Luis Nieto RADIO WOODSTOCK were heard on 6282kHz, October 20th calling CQ. The station, which was using a power of 10 watts are planning an anniversary broadcast, and a further transmission over the Christmas holiday period. (1)

Also from north of the border. WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO have been making a number of broadcasts of late, often incorporating a QSO. They were noted on October 20, November 3, 24 and December 1 on 6300kHz. On October 27 on 6295, QSOing with Capital at 1315 and with Hotel Amigo at 1355. On November 10th on 6290, with one of many Short Wave tributes to Laser 558. (2)

WMR'S November 10 broadcasting included programming from RADIO OMEGA, as part of a well known Free Radio Name's visit to Jack Russell. (3).

STARBOARD SOUND (3) returned to the airwaves after their considerable absence on October 27 Andy Walker presented a test transmission on 6300kHz. The broadcast however suffered from modulation problems. They were noted at 1048 but had to leave the air temporarily at 1139 whilst adjustments were made. Starboard were heard next on November 10 with a Laser special including an interview with Iain Johnstone of the London medium Wave station South East Sounds. A special Christmas broadcast is planned although no date has been fixed.

CRYSTAL RADIO (4) continue to broadcast fortnightly on 7375. Noted on October 20th, November 3, and 24. The latest edition of the entertaining and informative newssheet Crystal Ball is now available featuring news from the Midlands. The October 20 broadcast included a relay of the Rebel Radio Network, still nobody's perfect.

RADIO GEMINI (5) were heard celebrating their 12th anniversary on 6220 from 0959-1102. The presentation was as good as usual, although this broadcast featured mainly music.

UK RADIO. (6) were on the air November 3. Now using the Hunstanton mailing address, following the closure of the Wolverhampton box by the GPO.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (6) continue to broadcast with their first Sunday schedule, however the November broadcast was a week late. Appearing on November 10th. The station uses 6230 and 7316 (Hi Glenn) simultaneously. It is unlikely that the Dx programme will be heard over the next few months as the compiler Neal West will be busy elsewhere.

CARNIVAL RADIO from the South East presented a very professional programme on November 17th, announcing that it was the first of many transmissions on Short Wave. Included were recordings of Offshore Radio past and present Laser 558, Britain Radio, Caroline and Radio London. Perhaps the only fault was the drifting transmitter, which started off on 6220 at 1135, moving slowly to 6215 at 1242. Announcement was made of 'This is the National Service of Carnival Radio' which lead our contributor to wonder if the station had previously been on medium wave. Anybody know? No address was noted.

FMR - FREE MEDWAY TOWN RADIO. (7) began test transmissions in late October on 6275, and began regular programming on November 30 and now operate a schedule of 0900 - 1700 Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's programming is 2 hours of programming repeated throughout the day whilst Sunday has full programming with a Top 40 show during the afternoon. During the Christmas Holiday daily shows are planned. The transmitter is home built with a power of 15 watts.

BRI - BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (3&8) returned on November 24th, after a 2 month break, the longest in the station's five years on the air. The usual programmes were noted, and it was announced that the Boxing Day party show will once again be featured. Listeners are invited to send their greetings on a cassette tape to be aired on the day.

IRELAND.

RADIO RAINBOW continue each week on 6240 after moving to Kilahead. The transmitter remains as powerful as ever with a maximum

of 200 watts power. Music programmes are the order of the day with DJs Jim Agnew and Headie Eddie. On December 1st Rainbow relayed two programmes from the Rebel Radio Network, having previously had their channel occupied by Radio Tonair from The Netherlands.(9)

CAPITAL RADIO (No announced address) were noted on 6268 at 0956 on October 20th and again October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24. The station plays mainly continuous music but also makes the occasional QSO.

RADIO SKYWAVE (10) made a test transmission on 7300, 41 metres October 13th. This however does not appear to have been too successful for them as the following week they had returned to their regular channel of 6260 where they have remained ever since.

FALCON RADIO broadcast most weeks via the IRRS on 6200. Despite ABC Radio's presence on the same frequency (Falcon have been announcing the ABC address to send complaints to) the station says they will remain on the channel. DJs are Steve Fisher, Peter Moss (Old Record Show) and Tom King. On November 10 Falcon tested 6265, although not in parallel with 6200 on this day. (10)

The IRRS - INTERNATIONAL RADIO RELAY SERVICE tested 6266, with announcements made by an English DJ on November 3 between 1329 and 1408. (10) On October 20th the IRRS relayed Radio Marabu (noted at 1156) and on November 3 New Zealand's Kiwi Radio(11)

Despite the co-channel interference caused between Falcon Radio and Themselves ABC RADIO put in an improved signal now they have moved down to 6200 They were heard on October 27, November 2, 17, 24, as well as on occasions during the week. (12).

WESTSIDE RADIO continue to be heard each week on 6280, with the excellent mixture of Rock Music, Free Radio News and rare recordings. (13)

RADIO IRELAND (14) broadcast each Sunday on 6310.

RADIO VALLERI celebrated their 12th birthday on October 20th, they now broadcast each Sunday on 6400. (15).

SHAMROCK RADIO were noted on 6293, November 17. (16).

THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

RADIO DELMARE (17) continue each week on 6207 with various relays and occasionally their own programmes. The station now has a power of 1 1/2 kilowatts on the 6207 channel, and a second outlet of 9070 with a new aerial and power of 3 Kilowatts will shortly be in operation. A third frequency of 15440, 19mb will also be used in due course. The new transmitter is very costly to run, and as a result the relay charge has now been increased to £5 an hour. The new 1 1/2kw transmitter is already bringing in distant reception reports from such places as Greece, Albania, Portugal Poland and the USSR. A special service for the Eastern European countries is planned.

FRS HOLLAND were heard via the Delmare Transmitter on October 20th with their 3rd Sunday programmes. The station departed from the regular winter schedule to present, 'A History of Laser'. Also featured were the International Listeners letter show, FRS goes Nuts, FRS goes DX, in English Dutch and German. (18).

Amongst the Delmare relays this issue. RADIO CLOG (19) were heard on October 27 with English and German programmes featuring recordings of the Offshore stations and Oldies. CLOG were also noted November 24. RADIO SCORPIO made their debut transmission via Delmare October 27, a further broadcast was made on November 24 (8). November 3 saw the relay of 2 stations - RADIO PAMELA, featuring an interview with Tony Blackburn. Pamela are currently testing their own transmitter on 6611.5kHz, 44 mb. Tests are being made each week, 0930-1230. The Medium wave programming from the station also continues. (20). RADIO MARABU (21) were heard via Delmare on November 3 and again December 1. Marabu also had a relay via IRRS on October 20. December 1st saw relays of RADIO TUTENCHAMUN and RADIO PRIVATE, in German, No address here as it was announced in German and poor Podney could not copy it for us!

RADIO LIBERTY SOUND were relayed by RADIO HOTEL AMIGO on 6285 October 27, This was followed by a QSO for Hotel Amigo on 6290 and 6295 and again on November 10. After the

appearance of several versions of the Liberty Sound Address we have the correctly spelt one at (22) as a correction to Wavelength 6, Thanks to Podney, Paul and Bjoern for that. Sadly Hotel Amigo were raided by the Dutch PTT, shortly after the transmission on November 10th The transmitter also used by the operator for medium wave transmissions, under the name of Radio Waddenzee was confiscated. (23)

RADIO NOVA (Holland) were heard with a QSO on November 24th with PFBS. Nova announced that they were going to test 6290 the following week, and were duly heard on said frequency (noted at 1116).

THE PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE - PFBS (21) is a quite new station from West Germany which has put out various brief test transmissions recently. Here is a complete list of these broadcasts. October 27 6203, 6240, 5203 (Twice that morning) AND 7295, plus November 3 7320 and 5203 were used. The tests on 5203 were particularly successful with good signals noted over a wide area on the continent. PFBS hopes to commence regular programming soon with DX/Free Radio features included, although all broadcasts will be put out sporadically.

RADIO MILANO seem to have disappeared from the short wave bands with their last Sunday broadcast being on October 20.

FUTURE WORLD RADIO (25) now seemed to have dropped their lower side band transmissions as no LSB transmissions were noted on November 17.

RADIO TONAIR (27) were heard December 1, with a live transmission on 6240. After the broadcast the operator invited listeners to retune to 1508 medium wave.

RADIO BRIGITTE (28) with what our correspondent describes as 'bringing over mod to an art' were heard on October 27.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS (Giggle)

REBEL RADIO NETWORK (29) continue to steam relentlessly round the British Coastline, (as they would like us to believe) with John England becoming more and more outspoken. Noted October 2nd on 6290, anchored off Hartlepool and again on December 1.

Gerry Sinclair of SPECTRUM WORLD BROADCASTING has written to us with details of the station's planned Christmas marathon.

(30)
December 23, 1985 - January 2, 1986

1. 6240, 24 hours daily
2. 7350, 24 hours daily (alternative frequencies 7400, 7420)
3. 9962, 24 hours daily
4. 11480, 24 hours daily (alternative frequencies 11550, 11478)
5. 3905 SSB/LSB 0000-0600 (This broadcast may not be available on some days)

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ADDRESSES

When replying to stations please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope or 2 International Reply Coupons.

- 1) 23 Simpsons Street, Falkirk, Scotland.
- 2) 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, England.
- 3) 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG, England.
- 4) 190 Monument Road, Edgebaston, Birmingham England, B16 8UU.
- 5) 10 Apsley Grange, London Road, Apsley, Hertfordshire, England.
- 6) Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, England PE36 5AU.
- 7) Po Box SH9, Sheerness, Kent, England, ME12 1AQ
- 8) Po Box 19074, 3510 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 9) c/o Headie Eddie, 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland. +
- 10) Po Box 1686, Dublin 1, Ireland.
- 11) Po Box 1437, Hastings, New Zealand.
- 12) 4 Arundel Square, Waterford, Ireland.
- 13) 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin 9, Ireland.
- 14) 442 Hartstown, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, Ireland,
- 15) 144 Grange Abbey Drive, Dublin 13, Ireland.
- 16) 136 Sandyford Road, Dublin 16, Ireland
- 17) Postbus 36, B-2050, Antwerp, Belgium
- 18) Postbus 41, 7700, AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
- 19) c/o Wilfred Meyer, Po Box 540101, Duisberg 11, West Germany. +
- 20) 82a Delce Road, Rochester, Kent, England, ME1 2DH.
- 21) Po Box 750925, D2820, Bremen, West Germany.
- 22) J.L.V. 2 Rue du Vieux-Moulin, 62630 Etaples, France.

RADIO SKYWAVE INTERNATIONAL


P.O. Box 1686
Dublin 1.
IRELAND.



Voice
Of
Protest!

To: _____

Date: - -19



RAWI confirms your report heard in:
S.I.N.P.O
Relay Station

QSL'S

Date _____

On _____ kHz

From _____ MHz

Time _____

To _____ (gmt)

From _____

Many thanks 73' and dx

- 23)Po Box 113, 9104, ZJ, Damwoulde, THE Netherlands.
- 24)Postbus 85, 4527 ZH Sluis, The Netherlands.
- 25)Postbus 725, Arnham, The Netherlands.
- 26)Postbus 2, 4680 Gemmenich, Belguim.
- 27)Postbus 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen, The Netherlands.
- 28)Brigitte Van Gelder, Postbus 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen, The Netherlands.*
- 29)Po Box 255, Venus, Texas, 76084, USA
- 30)BM Broadcasting, London, WC1N 3XX.

+ = Do not put the station name on the envelope.

MEDIUM+FM

LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST.

Staff of RADIO JACKIE were recently fined a total of £3,900, whilst equipment worth £20,000 was also confiscated. The court hearing by Sutton magistrates was the result of last year's heavy winter raids on the London stations. Further to the operators appearance last July, Jackie are now considering whether to appeal.

A New Soul station has taken to the air in London under the name of TKO currently blasting away on 102.4 FM Stereo with non-stop music and Bill Mitchell Deep Voice Overs telling us "TKO Ten Twenty Four FM Stereo".

The station however has not met with favour from Solar Radio, who formally operated on the same frequency and are now bidding for one of the Community Radio licences. Solar are worried that the authorities are going to get the wrong impression, especially as a number of ex guest DJs on Solar have been asked to host programmews. A strange co-incidence that since the closure of Solar attendance and bookings for the DJs Nightclub appearances has gone down considerably.

KISS FM is another station jumping on to the Soul/Jazz-Funk bandwagon, broadcasting on 94.

LONDON WEEKEND RADIO survived the whole of October without a single raid, however the DTI struck November 18 but LWR are now back on the air.

K-JAZZ are now also on the air Wednesday nights 1900-2400 on 88.6 as well as their Sunday slot 0930-2200. Gilles Peterson makes a regular contribution to 'The Street Scene' magazine, together with ex JFM jock Smokey Joe.

UPTOWN RADIO is a new station heard on 102.5 -and are no relation to the South London station of the same name that broadcast during the early 80's They have a (surprise, surprise) soul, Jazz, R'n'B format.

An Ethnic Greek station, possibly IGR has been heard daily on 102.5 with music, talk and advertisements in Greek.

MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO - Although they have been experiencing difficulties recently they are still on the air using 1026kHz.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES - This station has been operating daily of late on 1242kHz. However they were raided November 23, this has put Burt Williams - the Grandfather of Free Radio on Merseyside - rather out and has declared the DTI to be 'robbers' having taken personal

CENTRAL RADIO are now back on the air following problems earlier this month. They operate at weekends on 1404.

CONCEPT RADIO, 104.8 Relay Central Radio during the day, but have local programmes during the evening.

WFM have been testing recently on 90.3

RADIO VERONICA are reported to be operating on 104.7 The station was put off the air Friday December 6 when a fuse 'blew' in the transmitting equipment. Phil Collins is reported to be looking for someone to incapacitate C-104 on 104 appears to be the new home of our friend Mr Dwyer, with Paul Kay.

KISS FM returned to the air December 8 with a very weak signal. They were playing tapes of the station's American Namesake.

Addresses:

Storeton Community Radio;
91 New Hey Road, Woodchurch Estate,
Birkenhead, La9 7NE
Radio Merseywaves,
9 Meadfoot Road, Wirrel, L46 7UW
Central Radio, Concept Radio,
18 Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, L20 6DF
WFM, 3 Waring Avenue, Birkenhead, L42 6QH
Radio Veronica,
81 Lark Lane, Liverpool, L17.

PORTSMOUTH.

King Radio is the new name for Hillside Radio, with a format designed to recreate the atmosphere of the 60s station. They are on the air Sunday Mornings from 0700.

THE NETHERLANDS:

RADIO CAROLINE INTERNATIONAL was noted with a strong signal and clear modulation November 3 on 1618kHz. The operator announced that they were transmitting "Live from Rotterdam"

RADIO KRISTAL, a station which has been monitored regularly for several years, put out another international broadcast November 3 on 1615kHz running into problems with Caroline popping up on a nearby channel. Kristal plays both English and Dutch Records apart from the usual live messages.

RADIO TORENVALK (Don't Sleep!) is one of the most active stations from Holland and was active on both October 27 and November 3 on 1094 and 1055 respectively.

RADIO HEIDEROOSJE were heard on November 23 /24 on 1508.

Addresses;

Radio Caroline International,
Postbus 3323, 3003 AJ Rotterdam, Netherlands.
Radio Kristal,
Postbus 224, 7440 AE Nijverdal, Netherlands.
Radio Torenvalk,
Postbus 36, 7010 AA Gaanderen, Netherlands.
Radio Heideroosje,
Postbus 26, 7030 AA Wehl, Netherlands.

UNIDENTIFIEDS.

November 10 on 6225 at 1220 playing non-stop music only.

November 17 on 6230 at 1002.

October 20 at 0958 on 6226, possibly Radio Albatross.

Thankyou to Podney for the above.

ON THE BANDS:Contributors

Many thanks go to Podney, Steve, Ian, Andy, Allen, Richard, Mark, Gerry, Bjoern, Paul, Glenn and anybody missed out !

Survey'85

In what could easily become the Free Radio equivalent of the Oscars Wavelength presents the 1985 Free Radio Poll. The format is similar to those conducted in previous years in other publications of this type. The categories are as follows;

1. Best Station, Short Wave
2. Best Station, Medium Wave + FM.
3. Best Audio, Short Wave.
4. Best Audio, Medium Wave.
5. Best Audio, FM.
6. Best QSL Card
7. Best DJ.
8. Best Magazine.

Please vote for 5 subjects in each category in order of merit, so if you think that Westside Radio is the Best Short Wave station your 5 in Category 1 may look like this;

1. Westside Radio
2. Radio Gemini
3. Radio Rainbow
4. Radio Apollo
5. Radio Pamela.

In order to make the poll as fair as we can we would like you all to put in your votes if possible.

Send your votes by January 23, 1986 to; WAVELENGTH, Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

Community

With the closing date for Applications passed on October 31 the total number of applicants is a massive 265.

The main concern however is the bias which may be shown towards members of the Community Radio Association. Michael Fabricant of the audio equipment manufacturer MBI has written to the Home Office on the grounds that he feels members of the CRA stand a better chance of gaining a licence.

Two members of the committee Ray Beatty and Ewan Jones are both members of the association and Fabricant feels that although this might not be the governments intention, they are certainly expressing the CRA as a prominent feature. Jones has now even denied saying to the CRA that he would be noting which applicants were members. "We'll be judging applicants on their merits".

This however is not all. A letter from Beatty was included in the application from the London applicant Spectrum Radio. In it he gave his support for the community programme scheme the station is planning to run, should it gain the licence. Simon Partidge of the CRA points out

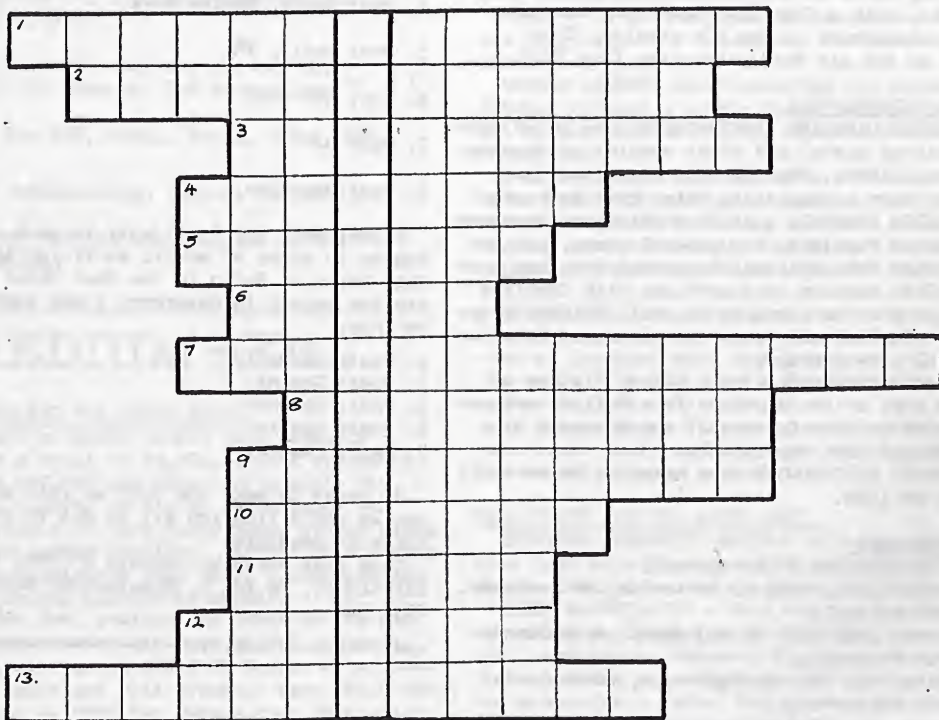
that the letter is not one of support but merely a comment on a training scheme.

Another worrying factor is that nothing has been done to prevent political advertising, therefore not stopping any political extremists from taking to the air, in spite of the fact that political groups are banned from applying for licences.

The largest application bid is for the North London licence which has received 69 applicants followed by South London with 33. In the neighbourhood licences there is a total of 82 applicants.

As far as the selection is concerned there will be no short listing, interview or background checking, thus leaving the field very much open. It would seem unlikely that any existing or former pirate will be awarded a licence, with the general opinion being that big business will win. However it has been pointed out that although applicants will have to show some financial expertise a guaranteed profit will not make certain an applicant obtaining a licence.

Prize Teaser



Publications

FREE RADIO WAVES

Whatever you may be looking at first impressions are always very important. It is then with great regret that the Front Page of Free Radio Waves does not inform you of what you are about to read. For the cover of this otherwise well presented magazine shows just a promotion for the Italian station Rete 105, with no mention of the magazine title.

I am sure that the front cover was just an oversight for the rest of the magazine is just what it aims to be - A Radio Publication for the 1980s. FRW does not take the obvious mixture of Short Wave, Medium Wave and FM news, but instead goes for a feature format, although some medium wave/FM news from the London area does appear. There are well written features, such as 'The Alan West Story' and 'Stuart Clark's Travels' The latter describing the current scene in Italy and the former an interview with one of Offshore Radio's most famous names and telling how Alan first became involved with radio in the mid sixties.

The 'Dave Windsor' at sea feature, although interesting in itself did not seem too topical, the events having taken place over a year ago. This is not to deny the ability of Dave Windsor as a DJ during his short time on board the Ross Revenge.

Other articles in Free Radio Waves feature Ireland and France. In all the magazine has tried to look at Radio from a different angle, and judging by the response already to FRW they have succeeded.

Free Radio Waves costs 75p from Flagstones West Heath Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1TA. Please make cheques payable to S.J. Parry. Alternatively FRW can be obtained from Anoraks U.K.

For Sale YAESU, FRG 7 Sideband/AM. Very Good Condition, one owner only. £120 O.N.O.
Apply Yaesu, Wavelength, Box 5, Hunstanton.

WAVELENGTH PROMOTION.

For a copy of the Wavelength commercial send your name, address and a tape for copying to Wavelength, Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE36 5AU.

ANORAKS UK

At Po Box 539, Blackpool have in stock the best selection of Free Radio Material in the UK. T Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Records Tapes and Videos. Order a copy of the new Jay Jackson Book 'When Pirates waived the rules' for £3.50, available at this price for a limited period only.

BORDER RADIO(SALES).

For the most comprehensive guide to London Free Radio contact Border. Schedules and Recordings of most of London's most famous stations. For full details send an SAE to Border Radio (Sales) 'Glenburn', Cardigan Road, Barnes, London, SW13 0BH.

Send your own comments on the current state of play in Free Radio to;
WAVELENGTH, Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

Here's something to do after you have become tired of eating Turkey Sandwiches. The following clues, numbered one to thirteen fit into the grid. The centre panel will gradually form the name of a well known Free Radio Personality. Send this with your name, address and Telephone number if you have one to us by January 23, 1986. There is a small radio related prize for the winner.

1. Fast moving shortwave station from The Netherlands (6,8)
2. When he returned to the Ross his name was Mark. (5,7)
3. Is Charlie getting worked up? (5,5)
4. Chris Cary's 8 week wonder (5,1,1,1)
5. Its almost worth breaking a leg for. (3,4)
6. South of London Radio (5)
7. This magazine made a return for the 80s (4,5,5)
8. His FRC Programme was heard on Westside & Annabel (6,3)
9. Alice's, Pano's Greek (10)
10. This former county once had its own 'TV Channel' but is now on the list for Community Radio (7)
11. Will this Short Wave station make a moon landing? (6)
12. Adding colour to Sunday (7)
13. John England's Pet Ship. (4,8)

D.I.Y. Radio BEHIND THE SCENES at SOUTHEAST SOUNDS

Just after a quarter past ten on a cold and Windy Sunday morning in October two people arrive at a secluded woodland in South East London. They are Ray and Gabriel, the site crew for South East Sounds. Ray Addams is the engineer and is no stranger to Free Radio having been convicted six times in the past and more recently has been reintroduced to DTI man Eric Gotts during the recent raid on the station.

Having introduced ourselves we watched as Ray and Gabriel produced a catapult, fishing line, lead weights and string to pull the aerial up into the tree. Ray pointed the catapult towards the tree whilst Gabriel held the fishing line, conveniently wound around an old paint pot. The theory is that the line is shot up at the tree, supported by the two once weight which keeps the line from getting stuck up the tree. Once positioned the string is tied to the end of the line and pulled up the tree in its place. The method is then repeated on a second tree with the aerial wire tied in-between a second piece of string and the first and pulled into position. That's the theory, however with a strong North Easterly wind blowing it took over a dozen attempts before the line was in position on just the first tree. Ray told us that they were normally able to get the positioning right in about two - three goes, and the wind was obviously blowing the aim off course. On one attempt the line got caught in the tree and when it was pulled down the weight had snapped off. This was possibly the most frustrating moment of the morning for Ray and Gabriel as the lost weight was the last rounded one they had. Fishing weights are now oval in shape and they explained that they do not travel very well compared to the rounded ones they had used previously.

By the time the aerial was in position (at an amazing 40 feet) the time was a quarter to twelve, and with programmes scheduled to begin on the hour there was no time to loose. Gabriel told us that whatever happened the programme tape would be started at twelve to avoid any problems with time checks. The previous week some teenagers had burnt the gyrobates to the aerial causing the whole system to come crashing down. At that stage of the day (four o'clock) it was decided not to continue so the equipment was packed up. This week's programme

included an explanation of the events.

Hammered into the ground were a number of steaks made of metal, to which crocodile clips were connected to as an earth the wires in turn lead to the inverter unit - it where the other end was clipped. The steaks had obviously been in the ground for some time as they had begun to rust, and it was necessary for the tops to be scraped with a wire brush.

The tape deck used for broadcasting the programmes was a standard portable cassette player. All the DJs on the station have their own studios.

With the equipment now all in place the transmitter, home built by Ray was switched on and the first programme presented by ex-Voice of Peace DJ Benny James was aired.

100 metres of 6.1 lb Fishing line, a catapult, and two 2oz fishing lead weights costs £8.

Letters

It was sad to hear the news of Laser's surrender, but at least there has been some good news - the dramatic improvement in Caroline's reception, although, of course this can never fully compensate for the loss of Laser. Perhaps the death of Laser will satisfy the authorities and they will stop hounding Free Radio. Laser certainly seemed to be their main target and I now hope they will now return to their old policy of ignoring Caroline.

I think Laser did a lot of good while it was around - It gave the broadcasting establishment a much needed 'boot up the backside' and forced legit stations to improve their programmes. However whether these slight improvements will remain now that Laser has gone remains to be seen.

Robert Bley, Norwich, Norfolk.

... Poor old Laser - although I've heard a few comments criticising the Captain for bringing the ship in - but it's no good saying "only if ..." but lets hope that one day Laser will be out there again, fighting the elements.

Paul Watson, Guildford, Surrey.

Eurosiege Seminar

Originally billed as a film evening, the Caroline Movement's Eurosiege Seminar was held on Saturday October 19th at St. Margaret's Hall Leytonstone. The exact location was kept secret until the tickets for the event were issued through fear of the DTI attempting to prevent it from going ahead.

St Margaret's Hall was of course the home for this year's Caroline Movement Convention. Two sittings were held, one in the late afternoon and the second commencing mid evening, and running into the early hours of Sunday Morning.

We attending the second sitting on the grounds that it would most probably be the best presented of the two, although from what we learnt from the organisers it would appear that both sittings were of equal merit.

The programme commenced with Jeff Ellis, who in his first prepared speech for the Caroline movement gave us a historical background to the current events in the North Sea by Chronicalling some of the earlier attempts by the Authorities to silence the Offshore stations, beginning with of course the moment HMS 'Venturous' approached the Caroline Ship back in May 1964. This, like other parts of the evening was illustrated with films and Sound Recordings of the events, although sadly, one got the feeling that you were hearing those same recordings again, which have been used on such occasions many times before.

Geoff Baldwin then discussed the pros and Cons of Offshore Radio against the authorities, with the general opinion that it was anti-establishment, so the authorities had to do something because of their mere existence.

The best segment was undoubtedly presented by John Burch, who gave a legal background to exactly what the Offshore stations and authorities could legally do. This involved diagrams and Maps of the Essex and Kent coastline to show the changes in territorial waters, and how they were drawn up in the first instance.

The fourth speaker was kept secret until the time he appeared. The guest turned out to be Laser 558's Tommy Rivers. Even more surprising the afternoon boasted the appearance of Charlie Wolf, who had by now disappeared to a Party somewhere in Leytonstone!

Tommy was able to give us first hand knowledge on what had really happened on board the two ships. One event was when Charlie Wolf thought that there had not been any action recently, so he asked the visiting Caroline Movement boat to go around to the other side of the ship. The Dioptric naturally followed, only to find the crew of the communicator standing on the other side of the ship, waving at them. Tommy stressed that they had done nothing wrong and did not believe that Laser had caused any interference to essential services. He said that if they were then it had taken the authorities over a year to take any action.

Away from the subject of Eurosiege Tommy said that he was not planning to return to the Communicator, but would consider any other Offshore project in which he was offered a place. He did not however see himself joining Caroline.

To end the evening possible methods of support for the then three offshore stations were discussed. This included a march in London as a protest, that however was discounted through fear of not drawing enough support. Many of those present who had seen the passing of two Marine Offences Acts in Britain and in Holland seemed to have decided the war was lost already and the authorities were determined to silence the stations. Letter writing was also voiced not to be effective as those who had written had received standard replies. The advice from John Burch was to continue writing undaunted. Violent protests were instantly dismissed as lowering Free Radio to the bottom level.

Caroline's roll in the Eurosiege was brought to the Panels attention, but we were assured that should the need arise Caroline too would like Laser mount an on air campaign, but Ronan O'Rahilly did not feel that the time was yet right.

All in all an eventful evening, if a little slow in pace to begin with.

Although Tommy Rivers said that he would not be joining Caroline many of you will have no doubt heard Tommy's voice over on the new Caroline Arabian Sands promotion.



P.O. Box 963, Watershed,
Canon's Road, Bristol BS99 7SN
Tel: (0272) 279900 (General Office)
Telex: 449238

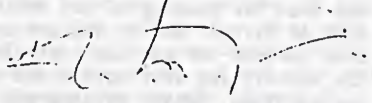
25th January, 1985

Dear Shareholder,

We have been very lucky so far in Bristol because Pirate Radio has been very limited. There is however indisputably a rapid growth in this blatantly illegal activity. Many MP's are reluctant to support action against Pirates probably because they fear they have considerable support. Perhaps this is the moment for them to realise there is another important interest directly affected by this flouting of the law: The shareholders of legitimate ILR.

I am enclosing the base of a letter which you might like to send to your local Member of Parliament, Giles Shaw Minister of State at the Home Office and Geoffrey Pattie Minister of State and the Department of Trade and Industry. It is only of course guidelines.

Yours sincerely,


John Bradford
Managing Director.

RADIO WEST PLC

Registered Office: Watershed, Canon's Road, Bristol BS99 7SN

Directors: Duke Hussey (Chairman), Fergus Lyons (Deputy Chairman), John Bradford (Managing), Willie Beloe, Lucius Cary, Grace Kitto, David Parkes, Stella Pirie, John Pontin, Jay Tidmarsh, Tom Turvey

Registration in Eng and Number 715143

...and finally

We are all used to the stand the IBA is taking against the Offshore Stations, and Free Radio on land. We have been sent a letter and material issued by the Bristol based station Radio West to shareholders at the beginning of the year, this is reprinted opposite. The letter for Shareholders to send their member of parliament asks for action to be taken against the 'Pirates' which 'If this growth is allowed to continue unchecked, it will threaten the viability of Independent Radio Stations' Or put another way diminish shareholders' profits. At this point I should draw your attention to the fact that Radio West like a number of the smaller ILR stations have been in financial troubles for a couple of years now.

To be fair to the ILR stations they do face many unnecessary restrictions, which Radio West outline. For example for every £1 of advertising revenue received the station has to pay the following

- 3.9p IRN National News Service
 - 13.3p IBA Primary Rental
 - 7.5p Royalties
 - 3.0p Employment of Musicians
 - 1.3p Membership of Trade Association
- 29.0p

The station is bound by the above and states "The Pirates Meet no Such Costs. They steal news, Steal Musicians' Work, Pay no Royalties and are subject to no levy"

The following Points are also mentioned.

- a) No more than 50% of our output can be recorded music (needletime) This is highly popular programming.
- b) We are expected to establish and maintain a local newsroom. Local News costs represent 46% of our programme budgets for 5% of our output
- c) Maintain a varied programme output including features and Educational programmes
- d) Maintain a political balance
- e) Observe a code of advertising standards
- f) Maintain studios to a high technical standard under the scrutiny of the IBA

The above may be a typical story of the ILR stations trying to protect their own interests. Nevertheless the ILR Network is bound up in its own rule book. Few of us would deny that the ILR is not professional in its output and does provide a good mixture of local news, music and information. If however the ILR stations did not have the restrictions, would they all play wall to wall music? If so what would happen to the standard of Radio in this country?

WAVELENGTH 7, December 1985, Page 15

The following is a letter sent to 'The Mail on Sunday'

"I am not a pirate radio freak but a disc jockey at Viking Radio, the independent local station for Humberside, and I think it is time the authorities' lies about offshore stations interfering with emergency rescue services were challenged.

They are just grasping at any excuse they can find to get rid of popular stations such as Laser 558 and Radio Caroline instead of admitting openly that the radio system they have instigated does not by any means satisfy the demands of the listeners.

If Laser is to be 'starved out' because it interferes with emergency services, why has its frequency, 558kHz, been assigned to the forthcoming BBC Radio Essex."

Mark Allen, Hull

The following week a reply came from Viking Radio, stating that Mark Allen had reached the end of his contract, and saw no chance of it being renewed. Viking said that they supported the action being taken by the DTI. Surely a severe case of towing the line.

The Home Office have contacted TW Sound the proposed community station for Twickenham, regarding an advert on 'South East Sounds' for TW Sound Sales, saying that the stations chances of obtaining a licence may be affected if they continue to advertise under the TW Sound name, as a result the organisation will now be known as Border Radio (Sales).

Former Laser DJ Charlie Wolf made his ILR debut (not counting Chipping Sodbury Sound) on December 2 with the Ipswich based station Radio Orwell (Charlie's named it Orville). None of Charlie's enthusiasm for life has been lost in the move, he just makes fun of different people. His appearance for one week on commercial radio was as part of the yearly operation Santa Claus campaign to raise money for local charities. Although unpaid Charlie was interviewed by two policemen and an immigration official after his final programme on December 6 to check that he had not broken the terms of his Visa. Charlie is hoping to stay in the UK for at least another month, and readers of the Caroline Movement's recent newsheet will know that the organisation is planning to adopt him!

Copydate for next edition, January 28, 1986.

Back page Photograph;
My Communicator passing a DFDS passenger ferry November 6, 1985 (East Anglian Daily Times).